

TRANSPORTATION



Long Ago Duxbury



(The following article was taken from a 1951 edition of the Duxbury Clipper.)

The house on Bluefish River now owned by Loren Nass is part of an old bowling alley which stood behind what is today the Rural & Historical Society. The bowling alley later became Henry Briggs' livery stable, and still later Henry made it the 1st garage in Duxbury. The old livery stable was a favorite hang-out for the boys in the early part of the century.

Henry Briggs had 6 horse-drawn buggies, ranging from small carryalls with a fringe on top to the big stagecoach, "Martha Washington," drawn by 2 horses and with room for 24 passengers. One buggy, which could carry 8 passengers, was the "What Cheer." Henry, who used to drive passengers from the Duxbury railroad station to Ashdod, Brant Rock and other points, had the contract to carry the mails. Sometimes his son Eben drove one of the coaches, and occasionally his daughter Hope (Mrs. Joseph Bolton) or Ruth (Mrs. John Washburn) took the reins. Those were the days. On a crisp Sunday afternoon, there was snow-trotting past the old Wright estate, when fine old pacers competed along a half-mile stretch of St. George St. You're an oldtimer if you remember George, the finest of Henry Briggs' pacers.

During the fall gunning season Henry Briggs or one of his drivers used to take hunters to Hunt's stand, and some days, when the Bay was frozen solid, the stagecoach crossed the ice to Clark's Island. Those were the days when Naham Hodgdon worked in the old Peterson general store (the house now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Walter Prince). When Old Man Evans, the shoemaker, had his shop in what is now the Ho'sun's Locker.